



ANIMAL ADVISORY BOARD (AAB)

Minutes for August 7, 2013

Present: All voting **Board Members:** Jean Linman, Debra Griggs, Debbie Donour, Daphna Nachminovitch, Tyler Carmack, Peter Gerlach, Rob Blizzard, Marie Jensen, Erin Edwards, and Dorothy Winn.

Nonvoting Board Member: Barbara Hays. Absent: Public Health and Police Department designees.

Staff and Citizens: David Freeman, Jamie O'Grady, Jake Roos, Doug Beckmann, Rachel Bellis, Rose Amour, Susan Perry, Kathy Galvin, Tommy Smigiel.

I. REVIEW MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- Minutes from the 6/5 Board meeting were approved. Minutes from the 7/22 committee meeting were approved with amendments and minutes from 7/29 committee meeting were approved.

II. PRESENT WORKING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

- **RECOMMENDATION:** A motion was made to recommend that the City support a Trap, Neuter and Return policy. Daphna stated that on July 12, 2013 the Attorney General issued an official advisory opinion on TNR. She read part of his response

It is my opinion that a locality lawfully may operate a capture and sterilization program for the purpose of controlling a population of feral cats. The feral cats may be captured in a humane fashion, and such captured cats may be sterilized by a licensed veterinarian. The feral cats, however, may not be released by the locality back to the location from whence they came or some other location in the wild. Finally, it is my opinion that persons who capture feral cats while acting as agents on or in conjunction with a locality as part of its trap and sterilize program are companion animal finders and do not become the de facto or de jure owners of such cats.

Debra quoted the Alley Cats Allies response (**document attached**). She also mentioned TNR is happening in Fairfax and Portsmouth with some success.

David Freeman brought to the groups attention that the City is working on a process for all advisory boards to make recommendations. The process would include a standardized form that would include critical pieces of information, statements of the issues and relevant analysis and data that supports the recommendation. The process would include a review by administration to determine whether it's an operational or policy matter prior to forwarding to City Council. **ACTION ITEM:** David will advise/send the form to the Board members, at such time when it has been completed.

Recommendation approved by 8 votes.

- **RECOMMENDATION:** A motion was made to recommend that the City support spay and neutering assistance for low-income citizens. It was asked how the Board defines low-income. The income criteria that the Board was looking at included families/individuals who qualified for the supplemental nutrition assistance program (SNAP)/food stamps, based upon 17% poverty level and under \$35,000/year income.

Recommendation approved unanimously.

- **RECOMMENDATION:** A motion was made to recommend to City Council that the City support a media campaign to encourage its citizens to adopt, volunteer and foster our City's homeless animals

Recommendation approved unanimously.

- **RECOMMENDATION:** A motion was made to recommend that the City support a policy for increased transparency which includes posting monthly data of the shelter's intake and disposition on the City website and publically releasing the data to the media

Recommendation approved unanimously.

- **RECOMMENDATION:** A motion was made to recommend that the City support a policy to have our shelter attain a 70% save rate by March 2014. Daphna requested more information on how the 70% rate was derived to be the right number and how it would be reached. She stated that it was very ambitious and would caution against setting goals that are unattainable. Norfolk is the last city regionally to build a new shelter. This should also be considered in save rate goal as well as current level of resources.

Barbara cited a presentation that she had sent out previously to the Board members including data that Jake had collected. The presentation showed that the NACC is working at or close to peak efficiently and there are concerns about pushing too much as they are reaching their upper limits. Much of this is resource driven.

Jean responded that we need to look at things in a data driven manner, the Board will submit the broad recommendations to Council and Council can come back to ask questions for specifics. This is an admirable goal to increase the save rate.

Dr. Gerlach asked if this number reflected 70% of healthy and treatable animals or all animals.

Jean responded that the save rate refers to all animals sheltered including the healthy and treatable animals.

Recommendation approved by 9 votes.

RECOMMENDATION: A motion was made to recommend that the City supports a partnership between our shelters, NACC, and the Norfolk SPCA. Daphna asked if other groups; such as PETA, rescue organizations, ART, could be a part of this partnership. Debra pointed out that NACC and NSPCA are the larger shelters in the area and that a working relationship is vital between them.

Recommendation approved unanimously

- **RECOMMENDATION:** A motion was made to recommend that the City supports a policy that all animals owned by NHRA tenants are spayed/neutered.

Recommendation approved unanimously.

III. UPDATE ON NACC EVENTS: KITTYPALOOZA, ETC.

- KittyPalooza was a success, though there were fewer adoptions this year than last year.
 - 2012 – 139 cats and 11 others = 150
 - 2013 – 109 cats, 14 dogs and 6 small animals (hamsters, guinea pigs, rabbits, etc.) = 139

The Petco Foundation grant subsidized three different adoption events one of which subsidizes the cat adoption fee so that adopters pay half the price during the month of August. The event is going well, but adoptions are moving more slowly as there is not the urgency of a four day event like KittyPalooza.

- Other events, programs, volunteer opportunities:
 - William & Mary students (15 incoming freshman) - came to the center and spent a day working with the animals and staff.
 - The NACC will be spotlighted on Norfolk Perspectives where they will push adoptions, Dogs Gone Swimming – which will have spay and neutering services and was a success last year.
 - 8/15: Hampton Road Show – NACC has become the shows go-to shelter. The show will spotlight some of the animals at the shelter.
 - 8/18: There is a volunteer appreciation event sponsored by Petco.
 - 8/28 & 8/29: There is a pet CPR course for the NACC staff and volunteers
 - 9/8: There is an Ocean View Pet Appreciation Day.
 - 9/14: Dogs Gone Wild event will take place at the Norfolk Fitness and Wellness Center.
 - There is a group of Navy Volunteers who come in and assist nearly every Friday at the shelter, the program has really grown and has been a success.
 - Sharon Adams of VBSPCA has received grant funding to provide spaying and neutering services to dogs for the residents of Berkley. The Neuter Scooter event will take place on 9/6; 9/13; 10/12; 11/1 & 11/16.

More information is available at 757/323-SPAY. Barbara will sit on the taskforce from the City. Lori Crouch will help spread the word for the City. **ACTION ITEM:** Barbara will send out the flyer to the group. Rob asked if it would be possible to put information about the NSPCA TNR program on the back of the flyer.

Councilman Tommy Smigiel spoke about the Council retreat which is in September and that our recommendations are timely. He also alerted the Board about the Off Leash Permit policy, which has come up as an issue in Ocean View. The civic leagues are officially weighing in on the topic and eventually the issue will be brought to the Advisory Board to make a recommendation on the permit policy.

Jean requested that if it is coming to the Advisory Board that the Board would like to receive it in advance.

Councilman Smigiel also mentioned that the NACC's five-year rental agreement is up in June of 2014 and it would be important for Barbara to bring that up to Council as they are going to their retreat in September.

Meeting ended at 6:35pm. The next Board meeting will be October 2, 2013 at 5:30pm. Jean will send an email to the group for those interested in participating in the working group meetings in September.